



NEWS RELEASE

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Duarte Man Charged with Murder After DUI Crash

A 25-year-old man accused of driving under the influence of alcohol and traveling on the wrong side of the freeway, which resulted in the death of another driver, pleaded not guilty today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Tyler White Thompson (dob 10/6/89) of Duarte has been charged with one count of murder, two counts of driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury within 10 years of another DUI offense, one count of leaving the scene of an accident and one count of driving when privilege suspended or revoked with priors in case KA107009.

The felony complaint, filed on Aug. 12, 2014, includes a special allegation that Thompson personally inflicted great bodily injury during the commission of the crime.

Additionally, the charging document alleges that Thompson was previously convicted of driving a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or more in 2011 and driving when driver's license suspended or revoked in 2013.

Deputy District Attorney Vanessa Robles, who is prosecuting the case, said on the evening of Aug. 9, 2014, Thompson was reportedly driving on the wrong side of the freeway while under the influence of alcohol.

While driving, Thompson allegedly crashed into another vehicle, killing the driver, Justin Romo, 19, and seriously injuring the passenger, the prosecutor said.

Following the crash, the defendant purportedly fled the scene on foot, but was soon arrested by authorities, the prosecutor added. Thompson has remained in custody since his apprehension and is being held on \$1.15 million bail.

The defendant is scheduled to return to court on Feb. 25 for a pre-preliminary hearing at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Pomona, Department N.

If convicted as charged, Thompson faces a maximum sentence of 20 years to life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the California Highway Patrol, Baldwin Park.

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[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety.